

RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD HOUSE

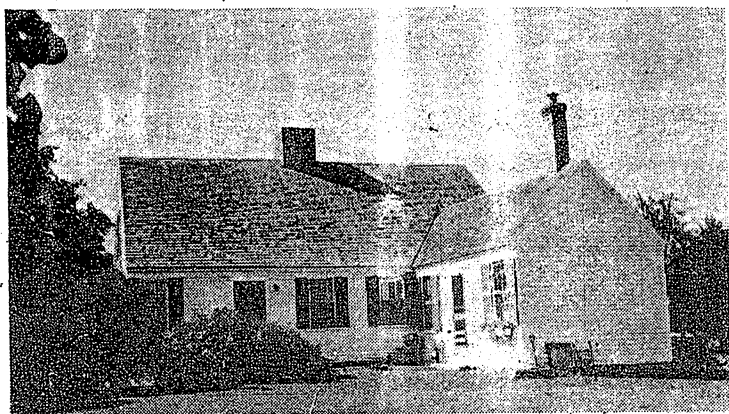
By Mabel R. Bates

Beginning at the Marshfield line, on Enterprise St., I'll try to bring to mind houses in parts of Duxbury and the people who lived in them (some still do).

Lucius Peterson, Sr., and family lived in the first house, which was built by Frank Ames. James Peterson (Lucius' father) bought it. No one seems to know how old it is, but Lucius was 12 when he came there to live. After he grew up, he married Bessie Soule of Tremont St. They had seven children: Alton, Elmer, Mildred, Sidney, Lucius, Jr., Eden and Merle. They raised the most wonderful vegetables and sold them to customers around town. They also had a stand near the house. Their strawberries were out of this world.



OLD SHERMAN HOUSE ON ENTERPRISE ST.



SAME HOUSE AFTER REMODELING

I visited Mrs. Peterson often, and was very fond of the family. Alton and Elmer have passed away. Mildred married George Phillips. Eden, Sidney, Merle and Lucius, Jr., as well as Mildred, are living. After the parents died the heirs sold the place to Martin Baker of Marshfield, and he sold it to the Ralph Houghtons, who still live there.

The Herman Delano house is next on the same side of the street. It was built in the 1700's by a Mr. Arnold, and the land across the street is known as the Arnold land. A family by the name of Sprague lived there, and George Sprague, who later lived farther on, was born there, according to relatives. I remember a tenant named Michael Ryan, who moved later to the old Ford Boarding House near Ford's Store, the oldest department store in the U.S. He worked for the Fords. Warren Prince was a tenant, and I also remember a Mr. and Mrs. Ed Leavitt living there. We always called Mrs. Leavitt, Melvina. I never saw her inside the house or outside without a sunbonnet on. She was quite a naturalist. Miss Ruth Delano built a house from the old barn on the place, and as it was put together with wooden pegs, I should imagine it was built before nails were available. I am now going up Cord Wood Path, off Enterprise St. to the Herman Delano, Sr., farm, where the old homestead still stands.

This house was built in 1685, and was Mr. Delano's birthplace, and possibly his father's. I have spent many happy hours here. It is a beautiful place and the Delano family all loved it; in fact, they have a reunion there every summer. I attended Mr. and Mrs. Delano's Golden Wedding Anniversary and remember a few lines some relative wrote about it. It went like this:

"Once water from the spring was brought, now a pressure tank is found. This all goes to show that the world is going around."

I think the Delanos had seven children: Leavitt, Mary Manning, Emily Osborn, Dr. Charles, Dr. Herman, Helen, Ruth and Ray. One of Mr. Delano's grandchildren (Philip) and his wife Henrietta live there now. Philip came to live with his grandparents and attended Partridge Academy, then left for a veterinary college in Pennsylvania. He is now chairman of our board of selectmen and assessors.

WHERE IT WENT

The land on this place ran from Temple St. to Enterprise

St. Herman Delano, Sr., was married to Helen Osborn. Now we go back to Enterprise St.

DUXBURY CLIPPER

Thursday, February 1, 1968



Photo Unit, Copyright 1947 by A. S. Burbank, Plymouth, Mass.
Old Department Store, Duxbury, Mass.

The next building is the Old Wright Screenhouse, on the hill at the right. It was owned by the Wrights of St. George St. The building was moved from Silver Lake. It overlooks cranberry bogs and was used for a cranberry storage. The Wrights used to have picnics there, as there was a beautiful grove in back of the building. The 1938 hurricane uprooted most of the trees. Mr. Fisher bought the place, then Harvey Burgess took it over.

Fisher had a duck farm as well as cranberry bogs. Burgess had the place quite a few years ago, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rudolph were his caretakers. Burgess sold the place to Mr. Pink, present owner. Both he and Mr. Burgess are from Carver.

On the left stands one of the Weston houses. I remember Harriet and Deborah Weston. There was a brother whom I never saw. One outstanding feature of this old house was the paintings of fruits and flowers

hanging on the walls of the dining room. I remember hearing that the brother did this lovely work.

A relative by marriage, C. Peter Tewksbury, came there to live with a niece of the Misses Weston. She was Miss Carrie Weston, niece of Harriet and Deborah, and wife of Mr. Tewksbury. The Tewksburys sold the house to a Mrs. Hayward, who in turn sold it to a ward, who in turn sold it to George Chapin. (Mr. Chapin recently sold the house. -- Ed.)

I visited Deborah and Harriet when I was a young girl. It is a nice old place overlooking the "Wright" cranberry bogs (so-called) Then, on the same side of the street, is the Leo Prince house, which was moved from Harrison St. from Roderic MacDonald's land and was remodeled by Warren Prince, once constable of Duxbury, and father of former Selectman Walter Prince of Washington St. Mrs. Leo Prince is Walter's daughter, and Warren was her grandfather.

Warren loved to remodel old houses. He was also the father of Charles Prince, who lives in Marblehead, and Mary Prince Christiansen, a most interesting person who lives in Duxbury winters and in Vineyard Haven summers. There she once worked for the Vineyard Gazette. While in Duxbury, she lives with her daughter and son-in-law, the Walter Kennedys of Standish Shore. Mr. Kennedy is guidance counselor at DHS. Mary has traveled abroad and has had wonderful experiences.

Warren Prince bought my great-grandfather's last old house from Duck Hill and divided it into two houses. One is owned by Clifford L'Heureux of Enterprise St; the other, next door, is owned by Walter Wolfe. I think Charles Prince formerly owned this house.

Warren also remodeled other old houses; Peter Balboni's was one (on land adjoining Warren Prince's house. Elwin Barnard lives in this old house.

A bit of Duxbury history is preserved on St. George Street as this 200 year-old home, the former Delano summer home, is turned 180 degrees to face the street. A full basement be added to the home, along with an addition to the main structure.

